1	2
2002	34
2003	15
2004	01
	115

State	Poaching
Andhra Pradesh	5
Assam	13
Bihar	3
Chhattisgarh	3
Karnataka	5
Kerala	1
Maharashtra	23
Madhya Pradesh	14
Orissa	1
Rajasthan	2
Tamil Nadu	4
Uttaranchal	9
Uttar Pradesh	24
West Bengal	8
	115

Wild animals destroying standing crops

1339. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some areas of districts Ropar, Hoshiarpur and Pathankot which fall under semi-mountainous ranges are inhabited by large number of wild and stray animals that destroy standing crops and agriculture lands of those areas every now and then;

(b) whether Government have conducted any survey in this regard; and

(c) what precautionary measures Government have taken or propose to take in this regard as these animals are protected under Wild Life (Protection) Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As reported by Government of Punjab, census of Blue Bull and Wild Boar has been conducted. No survey has been conducted in respect of stray animals in this area.

(c) The precautionary measures taken by the State Government include growing fodder grass and improving habitat for the wildlife to minimize straying into agricultural fields. Chief Wildlife Warden of Punjab has been empowered under section 11(1) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to permit hunting of animal or group of animals which have become dangerous to human life or to property including standing crops on any land.

Forest guards

1340. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how the Government have utilized Rs.68 lakhs approved for deployment of forest guards and involving local population during rainy season, in tiger protection in several tiger reserves;

(b) whether Government are aware that forest guards so deployed are unarmed and lack basic facilities such as lighting equipments and communication network and how Government propose to equip them to confront a sophisticated armed poacher; and

(c) whether the provisions of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 are adequately deterrent or they require amendments to give more teeth to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) An amount of Rs. 75.74 lakhs was provided to 11 Tiger Reserves, based on their proposals, for monsoon patrolling. The initiatives taken by the reserves, as reported by them, are given in the statement (*See* below).

(b) Central Assistance is provided for anti-poaching and deployment of special protection squads to complement the field staff, based on